Chinese Philosophies DBQ

Part II

Document Based Question

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purpose of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

Historical Context: Throughout Chinese history there have been three guiding philosophies followed by its leaders and people; Legalism, Confucianism, and Taoism (Daoism). Each philosophy has offered different perspectives and values for people in China to live by.

Task: Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to

Select two Chinese philosophies mentioned in the historical context and for each

• Describe the values and teachings of the philosophy.

• Discuss how the philosophy influenced the lives of people living in China.

In developing your answers to Part II, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

a) explain means “to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of”

b) discuss means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”
Part A
Short-Answer Questions

Directions: Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

Document 1

Shi Huangdi, first emperor of the Qin dynasty, used warfare to weaken six of the seven warring states. His efforts to unify China led to the consolidation of his power.

... The Qin [under Shi Huangdi] made many changes that were meant to unify China and aid in administrative tasks. First, the Qin implemented a Legalist form of government, which was how the former Qin territory had been governed. The area was divided up in 36 commanderies which were then subdivided into counties. These commanderies had a civil governor, a military commander, and an imperial inspector. The leaders of the commanderies had to report to the Emperor in writing. The Legalist form of government involved rewards and punishments to keep order. Also, the state had absolute control over the people, and the former nobility lost all of their power. The nobility were also transplanted from their homes to the capital. Groups were formed of units of five to ten families, which then had a group responsibility for the wrongdoings of any individual within the group....

Source: “Qin Dynasty,” EMuseum, Minnesota State University at Mankato

2 Based on this EMuseum document, what were two ways the Qin under Shi Huangdi attempted to control China? [5]

(1) __________________________________________

(2) __________________________________________

Score ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
His Shi Huangdi's most significant reforms were to standardise Chinese script [writing], weights and measures and even the length of cart axles so that every cart could run smoothly in the ruts. An extensive new network of roads and canals improved trade and the movement of troops between provinces.

Source: “The Emperor with an ego big enough for all time,” Timesonline

3a Based on this document, what was one way Shi Huangdi’s actions helped China? [1]
Li Si was a strong supporter of legalism and served as the Grand Counselor to Emperor Shi Huangdi. In this passage, Li Si is responding to a scholar who has challenged the Emperor’s movement away from traditional values.

…I humbly propose that all historical records but those of Chin [Qin] be burned. If anyone who is not a court scholar dares to keep the ancient songs, historical records or writings of the hundred schools, these should be confiscated and burned by the provincial governor and army commander. Those who in conversation dare to quote the old songs and records should be publicly executed; those who use old precedents [examples] to oppose the new order should have their families wiped out; and officers who know of such cases but fail to report them should be punished in the same way.

“If thirty days after the issuing of this order the owners of these books have still not had them destroyed, they should have their faces tattooed and be condemned to hard labour at the Great Wall. The only books which need not be destroyed are those dealing with medicine, divination and agriculture. Those who want to study the law can learn it from the officers.” The emperor sanctioned this proposal….

Source: Szuma Chien, Records of the Historian, The Commercial Press

3b According to Li Si’s proposal, what was one way Shi Huangdi could control the people of China? [1]
According to Confucius, list two relationships in which one person was superior and the other was inferior?

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Score □
Selections from the Confucian Analects: On Government

1:5 The Master said, “In ruling a state of a thousand chariots, one is reverent in the handling of affairs and shows himself to be trustworthy. One is economical in expenditures, loves the people, and uses them only at the proper season.”

2:3 The Master said, “Lead them by means of regulations and keep order among them through punishments, and the people will evade them and will lack any sense of shame. Lead them through moral force (de) and keep order among them through rites (li), and they will have a sense of shame and will also correct themselves.”

12:11 Duke Jing of Qi asked Confucius about government. Confucius replied, “Let the ruler be a ruler; the minister, a minister; the father, a father; the son, a son.” “Excellent,” said the duke. “Truly, if the ruler is not a ruler, the subject is not a subject, the father is not a father, and the son is not a son, though I have grain, will I get to eat it?”

5 According to this document, what were two changes the friars introduced in Spanish America? [2]

(1) ____________________________________________

(2) ____________________________________________

Score □
During the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.), Confucius came to be recognized as a great teacher. In time, his teachings became the basis of the Chinese educational system, which in turn was used to select government officials throughout much of Chinese history down to the twentieth century. Equally important, the ideas of Confucius and his followers penetrated to the very core of the lives of ordinary Chinese people. These ideas became the guiding principles of Chinese life. They gave structure and focus to the Chinese sense of what it means to be human.

...One of the distinctive features of Confucius's teaching is the confidence that he expressed that human beings are essentially alike by nature. Confucius thought that the important differences in human beings are determined by environment and education, by the habits and preferences they develop and the lives they lead. For this reason Confucius put great emphasis on learning. But because he saw people as constantly changing and growing, his teaching was not the same for everyone. Readers of the Analects are always struck by the fact that Confucius never failed to take into account the personality of each individual and his particular stage of development. Even the principles of humaneness and filial piety (devotion to one's parents and family members), which are so fundamental to Confucius's view of human relations, were not set doctrines or fixed rules of behavior. What Confucius offered was a guide to the way human beings ought to feel about themselves and others and to the way that feelings and actions should be related.

Source: Columbia University; “Asia for Educators”

6 According to the document, list two features of Confucius’s teachings.

(1) ______________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Score ☐

(2) ______________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Score ☐
Selections from the Laozi (Daodejing)

3
Do not exalt the worthy,
and the people will not compete.  
Do not value goods that are hard to come by,  
and the people will not steal.  
Do not display objects of desire,  
and the people’s minds will not be disturbed.  
Therefore the ordering of the sage  
empties their minds,  
fills their bellies,  
weakens their ambitions,  
strengthens their bones.  
He always causes the people to be without knowledge,  
without desire,  
And causes the wise ones not to dare to act.  
He does nothing (wuwei), and there is nothing that is  
not brought to order.

7 According to this excerpt from Laozi (Lao Tzu), list two actions that he believes humans should not do?[1]

(1)_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Score □

(2)_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Score □
Selection from the Zhuangzi:

Chapter 3, “The Secret of Caring for Life”

*Your life has a limit but knowledge has none. If you use what is limited to pursue what has no limit, you will be in danger. If you understand this and still strive for knowledge, you will be in danger for certain! If you do good, stay away from fame. If you do evil, stay away from punishments. Follow the middle; go by what is constant, and you can stay in one piece, keep yourself alive, look after your parents, and live out your years.*

Source: Columbia University; selections on Daoism (Taoism)

8 According to the document, list one piece of advice given to followers of Taoism in China?[1]
Yin Yang

The Tao is the One,
From the One come yin and yang;
From these two, creative energy;
From energy, ten thousand things;
The forms of all creation.

All life embodies the yin
And embraces the yang,
Through their union
Achieving harmony.

Tao Te Ching, chapter 42

DJ Jeffery
UNLV 2003

9 According to the document, what should be everyone’s goal in life? [2]
Part B
Essay

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from at least five documents in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

Historical Context: Throughout Chinese history there have been three guiding philosophies followed by its leaders and people; Legalism, Confucianism, and Taoism (Daoism). Each philosophy has offered different perspectives and values for people in China to live by.

Task: Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, write an essay in which you

Select two Chinese philosophies mentioned in the historical context and for each

• Describe the values and teachings of the philosophy.
• Discuss how the philosophy influenced the lives of people living in China.

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to
• Develop all aspects of the task
• Incorporate information from at least five documents
• Incorporate relevant outside information
• Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
• Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme